

The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, December 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

Mayor Higgins stated that the notice of the time, date and location of the meeting had been provided pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1975 (Open Public Meetings Act).

Councilman Kane opened the meeting with the Salute to the Flag, followed by a moment of silence for the Jersey City Law Enforcement personnel who are in a time of crisis.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT	MAYOR J. NOLAN HIGGINS
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DIBENEDETTO
PRESENT	COUNCILWOMAN ANNETTE JORDAN
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN KEVIN KANE
PRESENT	COUNCILWOMAN MARGARET ROGERS
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN GEORGE SCHNURR
PRESENT	COUNCILWOMAN SHARON SHUTZER

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 4 on the Agenda as follows:

“Approval of Minutes: Executive Sessions September 30, 2019, October 7, 2019, November 4, 2019 and December 2, 2019; Council Meeting December 2, 2019.”

Councilwoman Rogers offered a motion to accept the minutes and was seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins recognized former Mayors and Councilmen in attendance; Mike Wilson, Roger Kane, Kevin Coyne and Jaye Sims.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 5 on the Agenda as follows:

“Presentation: Renaming the Freehold Borough Little League Complex to Wilson Community Park.”

Mayor Higgins announced Mayor Mike Wilson served Freehold Borough for 26 years as Council President and Mayor and is the longest serving Mayor of Freehold Borough. He stated in honor of that service, the Little League Park will be renamed Wilson Community Park, home of the Freehold Borough Little League.

Councilman Kane stated this will be done in the spring along with the installation of field lights. He stated the plan is to have this done by opening day. Mayor Wilson was congratulated and thanked everyone.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 6 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Honoring Joseph B. Bellina on the Occasion of His Retirement.”

Mayor Higgins read the Resolution and presented it to Mr. Bellina.

Councilman Kane offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD HONORING JOSEPH B. BELLINA ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT.

Councilman Kane thanked Mr. Bellina for his dedication and his leadership.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated Mr. Bellina has served Freehold with distinction and dedication and remained a gentleman. She stated she cannot thank him enough as a Councilwoman and as a resident. Councilwoman Shutzer introduced Mrs. Linda Bellina and stated behind every good man is a good woman. She thanked them both.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Council President Kane read Item No. 7 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Governing Body of the Borough of Freehold Honoring Mayor J. Nolan Higgins.”

Council President Kane read the Resolution and presented it to Mayor Higgins.

Councilwoman Shutzer thanked him for serving the community.

Councilwoman Shutzer offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Rogers:

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD HONORING MAYOR J. NOLAN HIGGINS.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Council President Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 8 on the Agenda as follows:

“Second Reading and Public Hearing: Bond Ordinance #2019/9 Amending in Part Bond Ordinance No. 2015-7 Adopted April 20, 2015, Providing for Road Design, Paving and Restoration, and Appropriating \$915,000 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$697,000 Bonds and Notes to Finance a Portion of the Costs Thereof, in Order to Expand the Scope of Improvements to Include the Purchase of a Bucket Truck and Improvements to Municipal Buildings and Facilities, Authorized in and by the Borough of Freehold, in the County of Monmouth, New Jersey.”

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

There were no comments.

Councilman Kane offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Councilman DiBenedetto offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Jordan:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that a Bond Ordinance entitled “BOND ORDINANCE #2019/9 AMENDING IN PART BOND ORDINANCE NO. 2015-7 ADOPTED APRIL 20, 2015, PROVIDING FOR ROAD DESIGN, PAVING AND RESTORATION, AND APPROPRIATING \$915,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$697,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COSTS THEREOF, IN ORDER TO EXPAND THE SCOPE OF IMPROVEMENTS TO INCLUDE THE PURCHASE OF A BUCKET TRUCK AND IMPROVEMENTS TO MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY.” be, and same is hereby approved on second reading.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 9 on the Agenda as follows:

“Second Reading and Public Hearing: Bond Ordinance #2019/10 Amending in Part Bond Ordinance No. 2016-5 Adopted June 6, 2016, Providing for Road Repairs and Restoration and Repaving of Schiverea Avenue, and Appropriating \$975,000 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$641,250 Bonds and Notes to Finance a Portion of the Costs Thereof, in Order to Expand the Scope of Improvements to Include the Installation of a Pedestrian Bridge Over Lake Topanemus Bridge and Improvements to Municipal Buildings and Facilities, Authorized in and by the Borough of Freehold, in the County of Monmouth, New Jersey.”

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

There were no comments.

Councilwoman Shutzer offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Kane:

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Councilman Kane offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Jordan:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that a Bond Ordinance entitled “BOND ORDINANCE #2019/10 AMENDING IN PART BOND ORDINANCE NO. 2016-5 ADOPTED JUNE 6, 2016, PROVIDING FOR ROAD REPAIRS AND RESTORATION AND REPAVING OF SCHIVEREA AVENUE, AND APPROPRIATING \$975,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$641,250 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COSTS THEREOF, IN ORDER TO EXPAND THE SCOPE OF IMPROVEMENTS TO INCLUDE THE INSTALLATION OF A PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE OVER LAKE TOPANEMUS BRIDGE AND IMPROVEMENTS TO MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY.” be, and same is hereby approved on second reading.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 10 on the Agenda as follows:

“Second Reading and Public Hearing: Ordinance #2019/11 Approving and Adopting the 2019 Center Core Rehabilitation Plan in the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth and State of New Jersey.”

Borough Administrator Joseph Bellina suggested the representative from Pennoni give a brief presentation to explain the Center Core Rehabilitation Plan.

Borough Attorney, Kerry Higgins explained this has been presented to the Planning Board and there were no comments. She added a number of comments and suggestions were made to Mayor and Council from various entities.

Julie Connochie from Pennoni explained the updated plan and stated the goals are consistent with the goals of the Master Plan. She explained the multiple regulating elements; zones, frontages and building types which allows for finer tuning of the development. Ms. Connochie explained the two sets of design standards; private and public. Ms. Connochie explained the special sections including the Historic Rehab standards including additional guidelines for nonconforming properties and parking. She explained the parking plan and the signage standards. Ms. Connochie stated the plan can be adopted with these changes.

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

Mr. Kevin Coyne and Ms. Brianne Kozlowski, members of the Historic Preservation Commission stated there are some procedural questions about how it will move forward. Mr. Coyne stated the Commission is slightly unclear about some things and are concerned about when this becomes an Ordinance, whether procedures are set in stone or things can still be discussed to meet with their mission.

Borough Attorney, Kerry Higgins responded no Ordinance is set in stone and Ordinances are amended regularly.

Ms. Kozlowski stated this Ordinance changes the scope of the Historic Preservation Commission quite a bit and they are looking for clarification and have specific questions that need answers.

Ms. Connochie stated the powers the Historic Preservation Commission has are clearly spelled out in state law, so the proposed provisions have to conform with the MLUL, which cannot be changed. She confirmed any specific questions can be emailed to her.

Mr. Bellina suggested the questions come through a Borough Official.

Mr. Coyne stated the Commission's role is unclear and expressed concern over the approval for demolition. He stated there is not always support for what the Commission does, but pointed out the pride in the renovation of the Bennett Street School which was very close to demolition.

Mr. Jeff Friedman, Freehold Center Management Corp., stated he is very pleased this plan is moving forward and would like to thank everyone for all of the hard work. He stated there is a lot to look forward to in the next couple of years and looks forward to this passing.

Councilman Kane offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Councilman Schnurr offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Kane:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE #2019/11 APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE 2019 CENTER CORE REHABILITATION PLAN IN THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY." be, and same is hereby approved on second reading.

Councilman Schnurr stated since this is the second reading, the changes that were made are de minimis in nature. He stated any future changes would be done through an Ordinance amendment. He stated any changes should be made in the early part of next year.

Borough Attorney, Kerry Higgins clarified the proposed changes have been submitted and the motion should move to adopt the Ordinance including the changes.

Councilman Schnurr stated the governing body was committed to completing this prior to the end of the year and changes can be made if needed. He confirmed the motion is to pass this with the changes that were noted.

Councilman Kane stated this has been talked about long enough and it is time to get going and this is a great opportunity.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 11 on the Agenda as follows:

“Second Reading and Public Hearing: Ordinance #2019/12 Fixing and Determining Salaries of Certain Officers, Positions and Employees of the Borough of Freehold, in the County of Monmouth, and Repealing Any and All Other Ordinances Heretofore Adopted Which are Inconsistent Herewith.”

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

There were no comments.

Councilman DiBenedetto offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Councilwoman Shutzer offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Jordan:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE #2019/12 FIXING AND DETERMINING SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS, POSITIONS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, AND REPEALING ANY AND ALL OTHER ORDINANCES HERETOFORE ADOPTED WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT HERewith.” be, and same is hereby approved on second reading.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item no. 12 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolutions of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Authorizing the Execution of the Following Shared Service Agreements with Freehold Township:

- a. Health Services**
- b. Substance Abuse Prevention and Counseling Services**
- c. Parking Spaces at Schibanoff Road Commuter Lot**
- d. Information Technology Services**
- e. Code Enforcement, Building Inspection and Plan Review Services**
- f. Emergency Vehicle Refueling**
- g. Licensed Treatment Plant Operational Services for Freehold Borough Water-Sewer Utilities.”**

Councilman Schnurr offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Rogers:

RESOLUTIONS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE FOLLOWING SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENTS WITH FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP: 12A – 12G.

Councilman Schnurr explained the cooperative agreements are being renewed which are beneficial to residents in both municipalities.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 13 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing an Interlocal Services Agreement for Regional Animal Control.”

Councilman Kane offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INTERLOCAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR REGIONAL ANIMAL CONTROL.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 14 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Shared Services Agreement with Colts Neck Township for Municipal Court Facilities and Equipment.”

Councilwoman Rogers offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Schnurr:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP FOR MUNICIPAL COURT FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT.

Councilwoman Rogers stated Colts Neck is undergoing construction and they asked to share our facilities.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 15 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Appropriations in the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget.”

Councilwoman Jordan offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Kane:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 BUDGET.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 16 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, Cancelling Certain NJDOT Grant Receivables”

Councilman Schnurr offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Jordan:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, CANCELLING CERTAIN NJDOT GRANT RECEIVABLES.

Councilman Schnurr stated this formally cancels the unexpended balances so they can be moved to their prospective accounts.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 17 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, Cancelling Water-Sewer Utility Operating Appropriation.”

Councilwoman Jordan offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF
MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, CANCELLING WATER-SEWER
UTILITY OPERATING APPROPRIATION.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 18 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, Cancelling Parking Utility Operating Appropriation.”

Councilwoman Jordan offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF
MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, CANCELLING PARKING UTILITY
OPERATING APPROPRIATION.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 19 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of One (1) Dump Truck per the New Jersey State Contract.”

Councilman DiBenedetto offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Jordan:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) DUMP TRUCK
PER THE NEW JERSEY STATE CONTRACT.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 20 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Awarding a Contract for the Purchase of an Aerial Lift Truck.”

Councilman DiBenedetto offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Jordan:

RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN
AERIAL LIFT TRUCK.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 21 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Awarding a Contract for Refuse and Recycling Collection Services for a Three (3) Year Period.”

Councilman DiBenedetto offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Kane:

RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR REFUSE AND RECYCLING
COLLECTION SERVICES FOR A THREE (3) YEAR PERIOD.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated DeLisa does an outstanding job.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated they are happy to have DeLisa back.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 22 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing an Agreement to Install Well Number 10.”

Councilman DiBenedetto offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Shutzer:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT TO INSTALL WELL
NUMBER 10.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 23 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing a Change Order for the Development of a Housing Element and Fair Share Plan.”

Councilman Kane offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Jordan:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF A HOUSING ELEMENT AND FAIR SHARE PLAN.**

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 24 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Approving Change Order Number 1 for the Repaving of Various Streets.”

Councilman DiBenedetto offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

**RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NUMBER 1 FOR THE
REPAVING OF VARIOUS STREETS.**

Councilman DiBenedetto reported the various streets are the West and East Main Street crosswalks, Parker Street and Fourth Street.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 25 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Authorizing Amicus Participation and Funding Assistance in the Appeal of Verizon New Jersey, Inc. vs. Hopewell Borough.”

Councilman Kane offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Rogers:

**RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF
FREEHOLD AUTHORIZING AMICUS PARTICIPATION AND FUNDING
ASSISTANCE IN THE APPEAL OF VERIZON NEW JERSEY, INC. VS.
HOPEWELL BOROUGH.**

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins thanked the governing body for participating in this. He stated they are joining with many municipalities in a suit against Verizon.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 26 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Establishing a Professional Services Contract to Assist Freehold Borough in Obtaining its Judgement of Repose.”

Councilman Schnurr offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT TO ASSIST FREEHOLD BOROUGH IN OBTAINING ITS JUDGEMENT OF REPOSE.

Councilman Schnurr reported this is for the Community Grants Planning and Housing and is primarily for shepherding the housing plan through the Planning Board Process.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 27 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Waiving Parking Fees.”

Councilman Schnurr offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, second by Councilwoman Rogers:

RESOLUTION WAIVING PARKING FEES.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 28 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Appointing Stephen J. Gallo as the Business Administrator of the Borough of Freehold.”

Councilwoman Shutzer offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto:

RESOLUTION APPOINTING STEPHEN J. GALLO AS THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD.

Councilman Kane welcomed Mr. Gallo and his wife Lisa to the Freehold Borough family.

Mr. Stephen Gallo congratulated Mayor Higgins on his retirement. He stated he recently spent time with Joseph Bellina and he appreciated the time he gave from his personal schedule. He acknowledged he has big shoes to fill and stated his job is to recommend to Mayor and Council and will bring a bunch of ideas. Mr. Gallo stated he looks forward to serving the citizens and governing body and is excited to get started.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 29 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Approving an Appointment to the Freehold Borough Historic Preservation Committee:

- a. Mark Costanzo – term expires December 31, 2021.”**

Councilman DiBenedetto offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Kane:

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN APPOINTMENT TO THE FREEHOLD BOROUGH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE: 29A

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 30 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Confirming Personnel Appointments/Actions:

- a. Permanent Appointment of Joseph Floudas as Superintendent of Public Works, effective December 16, 2019.”**

Councilwoman Shutzer offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, second by Councilman DiBenedetto:

**RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS/ACTIONS:
30A.**

Councilman Schnurr offered congratulations.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 31 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Approving the Following Applications:

- a. **Raffle License #41-19, PTO Applegate School, 50/50, 2/21/20, 17 South Street.**
- b. **Raffle License #42-19, PTO Applegate School, Pocketbook Raffle, 2/21/20, 17 South Street.**
- c. **Raffle License #43-19, PTO Applegate School, Gift Auction, 2/21/20, 17 South Street.**
- d. **Raffle License #44-19, Solomon Schechter Day School DBA The Hebrew Academy, Casino Night, 2/1/20, 59 Broad Street.**
- e. **Raffle License #45-19, Solomon Schechter Day School DBA The Hebrew Academy, 50/50, 2/1/20, 59 Broad Street.**
- f. **Temporary Taxi Driver License, Evelio Morales, Freehold.”**

Councilwoman Rogers offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS: 31A-31F.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 32 on the Agenda as follows:

“Approval of Bills.”

Councilman Kane offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Rogers:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that the bills on the attached list in the amount of \$641,848.62 be paid as presented.

On roll call Council Members, DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers and Schnurr voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain Shutzer (47575); absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 33 on the Agenda as follows:

“Clerk – Late Communications.”

There were none.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 34 on the Agenda as follows:

“Public Comments”

Mr. Roger Kane, 111 South Street, congratulated Mayor Higgins on a great eight years. He congratulated Mr. Bellina and wished him well. Mr. Kane also congratulated Mr. Wilson and stated he is looking forward to playing on his field. He stated having worked with all of these individuals has been a pleasure and he hopes the people of Freehold appreciate all they have done. Mr. Kane wished them well and wished Mayor-Elect Kane good luck.

Ms. Christine Gregory, West George Street, thanked Mr. Joseph Bellina for all he has done for Shade Tree Commission. She stated as a tax payer, she feels the taxes are high but appreciates the grants he obtained to help the budget. Ms. Gregory thanked Mayor Higgins for all of his help as well.

Mr. Wilson, One Brookwood Drive, stated Mayor Higgins has done a great job and should be proud and stated the residents are very proud of him. Mr. Wilson stated he and Mr. Bellina did a lot of great things for the town and wished him well on his retirement.

Mr. Friedman, Freehold Center Partnership, announced some of the upcoming holiday events. Mr. Friedman presented a plaque of appreciation to the Police Department for all of the support at the downtown events. He presented a plaque and gift bag to Mr. Bellina for his years of dedication to Freehold Borough and support of Downtown Freehold. He welcomed Mr. Gallo and gave him a gift bag with Downtown Freehold goodies. Mr. Friedman presented Mayor Higgins with a plaque and gift bag and stated it is sad to see him go. He thanked him for his dedication and eight years of service as Mayor as well a lifetime of service to the community.

Mayor Higgins recognized Mr. Larry Jackson, from the Freehold Fire Department who is attending for the Mayor’s last meeting. Mayor Higgins thanked him for coming.

Councilwoman Shutzer made a motion to close the Public Comments, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto.

On roll call Council Members, DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent Schnurr. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 35 on the Agenda as follows:

“Council Comments”

Councilman Schnurr relayed a Little League story with Mr. Wilson. He thanked him for his leadership and said the honor of naming the park after him is well deserved. Councilman Schnurr stated Mr. Bellina is a class act and stated Mr. Gallo has large shoes to fill. He thanked Mr. Bellina for everything he has done. Councilman Schnurr thanked Mayor Higgins for being the teammate that makes everyone else look better.

Councilwoman Rogers stated Mr. Bellina has assisted her throughout her first year and she appreciates it. Councilwoman Rogers thanked Mayor Higgins for his guidance and support of the council members. She congratulated Mr. Floudas on his promotion which is well deserved. Councilwoman Rogers welcomed Mr. Gallo to Freehold Borough.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated this is a sad night, but also an exciting night as they look to the future. She stated she has very fond memories of Mr. Bellina and thanked him for always being a gentleman. She wished him well on his retirement. Councilwoman Shutzer stated Mayor Higgins has left his mark on Freehold Borough and has left a marvelous, classy legacy. She welcomed Mr. Gallo and stated Freehold Borough has the best employees ever, including Mr. Floudas. She thanked everyone that helped her with Seniors Holiday Party.

Councilman DiBenedetto wished everyone Happy Holidays and a Healthy New Year.

Councilwoman Jordan thanked Mr. Bellina for his guidance and wished him the best. She thanked Mayor Higgins and stated he entered his office with respect and leaving with even more respect and love.

Councilman Kane thanked Councilwoman Shutzer for a successful Holiday Party. He commended the Human Relations Committee on the Candle Light Walk and congratulated Mr. Floudas. Councilman Kane stated it will be a great Opening Day at the Little League complex and congratulated Mr. Wilson. He welcomed Mr. Gallo and his wife Lisa and added he looks forward to working closely with him. Councilman Kane thanked Mr. Bellina and stated it has been a pleasure working together. Councilman Kane stated it is going to be hard to fill the shoes of Mayor Higgins. He thanked him for all he has done and looks forward to continuing the relationship. He wished everyone a Happy Holiday and stated he is looking forward to a great New Year.

Mayor Higgins stated Freehold Borough Police Department has three recent graduates from the Police Academy and stated they look forward to their service. He reported he visited the schools today and received a holiday card from Barbara Oliver who was in regular attendance at the Council Meetings.

Mayor Higgins read the following:

"To my Governing Board colleagues, the former members of this body, residents of the Borough of Freehold, our professionals and our Borough family; it has been an honor to serve as the 13th Mayor of the Borough of Freehold. I will never forget the confidence

and support of our residents who allowed me to serve as Mayor of this special community. During the past eight years I've had the pleasure of representing the Borough at meetings, parades, eight graduations, school programs, anniversaries and ribbon cuttings. Nearly 400 office hours were held to allow residents an opportunity to speak directly with their Mayor. I have performed almost 200 wedding ceremonies including the marriage of my daughter and son-in-law and had the privilege of administering the oath of office to our new police officers, police officers promoted to superior ranks, fire chiefs and first aid officers.

I thank my fellow governing body members for their support over the past eight years. My colleagues have been both a source of guidance and inspiration. We are fortunate to be served by a dedicated group of Borough employees. Our Public Works Dept. is out making sure the water is flowing and the streets are passable in extreme weather conditions during summer's severe storms and winter's snow events. Our Court Library and Code Office are dedicated to the good of this community and provide valuable services. My thanks are extended to the outstanding Freehold Fire Department, whose dedicated members are ready to respond to protect lives and property in this municipality. Thanks to our Police Department, who serve us all. These are not easy days to be in law enforcement, but our department rises to serve us, not only as law enforcement professionals, but as counselors and service providers to members of this community. There were many sleepless nights during these past eight years knowing our officers were detailed to very sensitive assignments. Assignments that due to the nature of the call, are not known to the public. Our officers serve with distinction and they have my full respect as they perform their duties. I express my personal thanks to Chief Dispenza, to our Borough Clerk, Traci DiBenedetto who served their offices with professionalism, dedication and a sincere desire to help each and every person. Our Borough Hall staff; Matt Young, Tara, Sharon, Julissa in our Code Office, Shelly Yee, Mary Cruz, Lynn Cannon, Pat Berg, Kathy Caruso, Ricky Gartz, Pat Ruegger for her many years of service to this administrator and this community, Dominica Napolitano, Mike Sweetman and all our commissions and committees. My thanks to our attorney, Kerry Higgins who has guided our decision making with advice and counsel. I am always amazed by the breadth of knowledge required of a Municipal Attorney and I thank Kerry for her service during the past eight years. Many times I have looked out from this position and wished our Higgins, Dugan, Cummings and McCue ancestors from generations back could see their descendants serving as Mayor and Borough Attorney.

My thanks to our "kitchen cabinet". A person could not serve as mayor without the advice and support of others and I am grateful for your service. My thanks go out to the Board of Downtown Freehold and Jeff Friedman for all they do for our business community. To our government partners, Terry O'Connor and the Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Freehold Township Committee and their Administrator Peter Valesi. To the person I speak to several times a day, every day; including weekends, evenings, holidays and vacations, our Administrator Joe Bellina. Joe has been a mentor, counselor, sounding board and friend. We have talked through difficult decisions, stood together on darkened streets following our many storms, planned our response to snow emergencies, stood with our residents who were wondering what to do next after a tree had crashed through their roof, visited residents following damages and outages and executed day to

day operations of this municipality. Joe, you have my heartfelt thanks and best wishes as you conclude your service to the Borough of Freehold and I wish you and Linda much happiness.

I thank our staff in my other position that made it possible for me to be Mayor for eight years. They have covered for me while I was at meetings, on the telephone, attended events and left the office saying I wouldn't be long, only to return hours later. Mark Sweeney, Chad Doherty, Nick Macri, Gene Kutch and Richard Mount have my thanks and my gratitude for their support and work during my two terms. I thank my family, our daughters Jessica and Allie, son-in-law RJ, my brother Greg and his wife Eileen, their children Emily and James, our grandchildren, Bexley, Callie, Benjamin and William. Bexley has been with us from the start of these terms. RJ, Callie, Benjamin and William to my great joy, came along during this time as Mayor. Finally, my thanks to my wife Chris, whose support and encouragement and advice in the beginning made it possible for me to serve. Both at home and our office, Chris provided the opportunity for me to be here. I will miss all that has been part of this wonderful time. There were difficult days, but this has been an experience I will always recall with great fondness and happiness. I wish all the best to Mayor-Elect Kane and our Governing Body as we move forward to a new time in the life of our hometown. Thank you for everything. We stand adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:lc